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WEST GERMAN PEOPLE MUST ACT – GDR Appeal

The people of West Germany must act in order to clear the way for normal relations between the two German states, the Government of the German Democratic Republic stated in an appeal published on June 20th. The appeal stated in part:

The people of the world are watching with growing uneasiness developments in the German Federal Republic, where SS generals are allowed to address big meetings, and where nationalist hate propaganda against the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have reached a new height.

The shrill tones of Hitlerite propaganda are heard again and all those who call for peaceful coexistence between the two German states are slandered as 'traitors'. The Bonn regime wishes in this way to hinder the relaxation of international tension, and the hope for an arms stop.

But like all other peoples, the Germans wish to live in peace with each other and with the world. Anyone who wants to live must take action in favour of correct relations between the two Germans states, and must long for the conclusion of a Good Will Agreement between the German Federal Republic and the GDR.

All our proposals in this respect have been ignored by the Bonn Government, which does not want peaceful coexistence, does not want the renunciation of nuclear weapons, and does not want normal relations between the two German states.

Every day, thousands of people from the German Federal Republic visit the GDR; but Bonn not only refuses to recognise the passports of GDR citizens, but also arrests citizens of our state who visit West Germany.

West Berliners wish to visit the capital of the GDR (East Berlin). But the West Berlin authorities have used police to close down the permit offices which we had opened; have encouraged demonstrations of the fascist underworld at frontier crossing points; and have organised bomb attacks on the GDR.

Who are the people behind this policy? They are the same men who brought Hitler to power, who enriched themselves in the Second World War, and who split Germany in 1948/49 in order to preserve the power of big business, revive militarism and thus make ready for a new bloody adventure.

Citizens of West Germany! The Bonn Goverment is playing a dangerous game, a game which can cost the peace of the world, and your lives. In view of the relations of power in the world, a policy of aggression means a policy of suicide.

The people of the GDR have long exercised their right to self determination, and have driven from power those who profiteered from ghastly wars. The people have built themselves a democratic state and a policy of peace.

Now there is only one way out: the people of the German Federal Republic must finally exercise their right of self determination, and scotch the tricks of those elements who threaten peace.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic suggests that you should finally create suitable conditions for realistic and normal relations between the two German states.

Both states should take a solemn pledge to respect the existence of the other state, its political system and social order; to renounce the use of force in any form; and to respect the frontiers of the other state. In order to achieve a real relaxation of tension, revanche propaganda and war propaganda must immediately cease.

Both German states should renounce the testing, possession, production and acquisition of nuclear weapons, and all right of disposal over such weapons.

Every West German who desires peace and good human relations between the people of the two German states should urge negotiations between the two German governments in order to implement these vital proposals.

Let us act together before it is too late!

The Government of the German Democratic Republic, Berlin, June 20th 1963

'DESTROY ENGLAND" General to Boss British Troops: See Next Page

"DESTROY ENGLAND" — KIELMANSEGG

Nazi Officer to Boss British Troops

General Kielmansegg, West German general and former nazi colonel who will shortly take over top command of most British, French and American troops in West Germany, went on record in 1941 calling for the "destruction of England".

Kielmansegg — his full name and title is General Johann-Adolf Count von Kielmansegg — is scheduled to take over shortly from General Hans Speidel as commander of NATO Land Forces in the Central European Sector. Speidel, himself a nazi general closely linked with many of Hitler's crimes, is due to reach retirement age next month.

In 1941, when he was a Wehrmacht major, Kielmansegg published a nazi propaganda book entitled "Tanks between Warsaw and the Atlantic". This book ended with the sentence:

"We can report that we have carried out to the utmost the duty assigned us by history, Germany and the Fuehrer, and we can report that we are equally ready to carry out the only remaining duty separating us from freedom — the destruction of England".

During the war Kielmansegg rose from front-line major to colonel in the Operation Department of the Army High Command, where he served under General Adolf Heusinger, today Chairman of the Permanent Military Committee of NATO.

Today Kielmansegg claims that he has an "anti-nazi record" because he was temporarily detained by the Gestapo, with hundreds of other Wehrmacht officers, after the bomb plot against Hitler on July 20th 1944. All the officers against whom there was a shadow of suspicion were executed or kept in custody; Kielmansegg, a rare exception, was released without a stain on his nazi character, and given command of a tank regiment.

After the war he helped to build the new West German Wehrmacht from the very start, being appointed to the preliminary planning staff in 1950. At present he commands the 10th Panzer Grenadier Division.

As Commander of NATO's Central European Sector, Kielmansegg will have under him the British Army of the Rhine, the US 7th Army, the French 1st Army, and Canadian, Belgian and Dutch troops, as well as the mass of the West German Army.

(More details of the past career of General Kielmansegg in the next issue of GERMAN REPORT)

Bonn — Israel Nuclear Weapon Pact?

West Germany may be planning illicit research into nuclear weapons in cooperation with Israel, C. L. Sulzberger, well known American foreign correspondent, suggested in the "New York Times" on June 11th.

"It is fair to ask what (West) Germany is up to in the Middle East", Mr Sulzberger wrote. "The recent visit to Israel of Herr Strauss, former Minister of Defence, was unusual... Germany is banned by treaty from manufacture of ABC weapons (atomic, bacteriological and chemical.) Adenauer has loyally adhered to this restriction. Nevertheless, two schools of German military thought would like to see advances in weapon technology. One hopes Germany will some day possess not nuclear warheads but their means of delivery. Another is interested in atomic explosives.

"There is not the slightest known evidence of any clandestine German effort to elude restrictions. But curious occurrences prompt questions. Strauss, as Defence Minister, made a secret deal with Israel involving purchase of Israeli machine pistols and supplying other equipment to Israel... Israel has a technical interest through its nuclear reactor at Dimona. This was secretly started during the 1956-57 winter with French aid and was so well disguised that Washington only learned of its existence in 1960. It could, if desired, have weapons-making capacity. Has Strauss discussed Dimona?

"The innuendo surrounding activities of German scientists in Egypt is far uglier...

"Germany wouldn't and couldn't conduct nuclear experiments. It is also virtually certain the Bonn Government would not condone such activities elsewhere. Could it, however, be possible for some secret planning staff to try and gain new knowledge about either atomic explosives, through Israel, or missiles, through Egypt, or both?...

"This is no time for secret deals of scientific mercenaries. Germany's defence needs can be met through NATO.

"I repeat: there is no evidence that any German cabal is up to diabolic tricks; but there are unanswered questions."

GERMAN REPORT comments: Mr Sulzberger is too naive when he writes "There is not the slightest known evidence of any clandestine (West) German effort to elude restrictions." For at least the past five years it has been an open secret that West German scientists have been helping in the development of nuclear devices and other weapons falling in the banned categories at the secret French weapons development centre at St Louis in eastern France.

Commenting on Bonn military cooperation with both Egypt and Israel, "Kol Haam", newspaper of the Communist Party of Israel, stated: "West German reparations and arm deals have nothing to do with the desire of the rulers in Bonn to 'appease' or compensate the State of Israel for Hitler's crimes against the Jewish people. The West German leaders have only one aim: expansion for West German imperialism in the Middle East. The only alternative to the nuclear arms race in the Middle East is a political initiative to declare the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, and to disengage from neo-nazi Germany."

"GDR-Britain" Society Founded

The German-British Society in the German Democratic Republic was officially founded at a ceremony in East Berlin on June 18th. The new society has the aim of fostering good relations between the GDR and Britain in all fields. Messages of greeting were received from a number of Labour MPs, and from Lord Boyd Orr. The address of the society is:

German-British Society in the GDR
Berlin W 8
Thaelmann Platz 8

Globke – The Charges

On July 8th the Supreme Court of the GDR will try Hans Globke, Chancellor Adenauer's State Secretary, on charges connected with his activities in the nazi period. Here are details of the charges:

Indictment:

Hans Josef Maria Globke
State Secretary in the Federal Chancellor's Office
born September 10th 1898 in Dusseldorf
resident at No. 10 Diez Strasse, Bonn
married, no previous convictions, is accused of committing continuously, together with other person, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Berlin and other places in the period from November 1932 to 1945, and of contributing thereby to the annihilation of whole peoples and of millions of persons.

1. In 1933 the accused Globke took part in drafting and interpreting laws which were the legal basis for finally destroying the parliamentary forms of the Weimar system and for creating a fascist dictatorship... These laws sanctioned the use of terror against anti-fascist and democratic forces by setting up the state apparatus needed to destroy large portions of the German people. The laws were also a main cornerstone of the fascist policy of aggression, which led several years later to the Second World War.

2. In the years 1932 to 1938 the accused Globke played an important part in singling out and registering the Jewish citizens of Germany. As Referent ("Responsible specialist") in the Prussian Interior Ministry, he framed Ruling I Z 47/32 of December 23rd 1932, which prevented Jewish citizens from changing their names, in violation of existing laws and the constitution. This ruling was the first governmental anti-Semitic measure in Germany...

Beginning in 1936, he prepared rulings which went even further than demands voiced by Hitler and which forced Jewish citizens to add the names "Sara" or "Israel" to their own names. The compulsory adoption of these names meant registration with the Gestapo, for which the accused is also co-responsible...

Of major importance in this period were the preparation and execution of the Nuremberg Racial Laws, both with the complicity of the accused Globke...

(For details, see GERMAN REPORT, June 16th 1963)

In addition, two months before passage of the Nuremberg Racial Laws, his Circular of July 26th 1935 forbade marriages between Jewish citizens and "Aryans", in violation of laws still valid at the time...

Globke played a major part in drafting the 11th Decree of the "Reich Citizens' Law". This meant the automatic loss of citizenship and loss of all property for Jewish citizens as soon as they were deported to the annihilation camps in one of the transports organised by Eichmann. At his trial in Israel, Eichmann testified that this 11th Decree of the "Reich Citizens' Law", drafted with the help of Globke, provided the legal basis for the deportation of Jewish citizens. Eichmann also testified that the 11th Decree of the "Reich Citizens' Law" was used as a model for similar rulings in areas occupied by the nazis...

3. In the period from 1938 to 1945, the accused Globke extended the fascist distortion of the principles of nationality law to the areas occupied by the nazis. He thereby organised and created a justification for the "Germanisation" policy of the fascist state while propagating this policy as its semi-official commentator and while supervising its execution.

The accused Globke served the fascist policy of aggression by dividing the population of the conquered countries and areas, according to National Socialist racial theory, into two main groups:

The members of the German "folk" or those considered equal to it or "Germanisable", on the one hand, and the "aliens" or "incorrigible renegades" on the other hand...

The accused Globke drafted rulings against the people of the occupied areas in line with his responsibility for questions of national and international nationality law:

a) After the annexation of Austria and the western areas of Czechoslovakia, he drafted the "Decree on the Introduction of the Laws on Names to Austria and the Sudeten German Areas" of January 24th 1939. 53,000 Austrian Jews were the victims of crimes for which the accused Globke provided the legal basis...

b) to g) (Further paragraphs give details on the murder of Jews and other citizens, on the legal basis of decrees drafted by Globke, in Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, the Soviet Union, and the other occupied territories.)

The complicity of the accused Globke in laying the legalistic basis

– for setting up the Hitler dictatorship in Germany,

– for persecuting and annihilating the Jewish citizens of the German Reich and

–for Germanising the peoples of Europe who were conquered by the fascist aggressors

constitutes the crime of genocide, the murder of millions of people.

His actions are crimes in the sense of the Nuremberg principles, which are universally acknowledged and which have been affirmed by the United Nations, as set out in Article 6 of the charter of the International Military Tribunal ("The Tribunal shall have power to try and punish persons who, acting in the interests of the European Axis countries whether as individuals or members of organisations, have committed any of the following crimes: ... c. Crimes against Humanity. Namely, murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts committed against any civilian population, committed before or during the war; or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds in execution of, or in connection with, any crime within the jurisdiction of the tribunal, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated" and in connection with Article 5 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic ("The generally accepted rules of international law are binding upon the state power and upon every citizen.") The actions of the accused Globke are punishable under §211 of the Penal Code (for murder) in connection with §47 of the Penal Code.

"Re-Think W. Berlin Problem"

— former British Deputy Commandant

The former British Minister and Deputy Commandant in West Berlin, Geoffrey McDermott, has urged the western powers to put forward genuine proposals for a solution of the Berlin problem.

Mr McDermott was British Minister in West Berlin from July 1961 until June 1962, when he was sacked from this post and retired from the Foreign Office, following policy disagreements.

In an article published by the London "New Statesman" on June 21st, Mr McDermott stated:

"I have always been suspicious of a policy of retaining the status quo. I do not say that it should never be maintained; but every status quo needs taking out of its pigeonhole fairly often for dusting off and general inspection. Several questions should be asked. With the passage of time and the swiftness of developments is the position really as good as we thought it was? Could it not in fact be improved? And if we do not act to improve it is there not a likelihood that the other side will, to our disadvantage?

"The longer I was in Berlin the clearer it became to me that the answers to these three questions must be No, Yes and Yes, respectively ...

"It became increasingly clear to me that the western position could not be satisfactory, or our diplomacy efficient, if we so regularly had to threaten nuclear war over Berlin. Certainly Khrushchov never threatened it. I like Berlin and admire the Berliners. I believe that if the West deserted Berlin, it would be a very grievous blow to our world-wide position. But our present flat-footed posture, the neck stuck well out, is neither dignified nor appropriate to the facts of the case.

"Some of the facts which the western governments prefer to ignore impinged on me increasingly as I stayed in Berlin. One is that the GDR is in fact an independent German state ruled and run by Germans. Of course it is under Soviet pressure like the other satellites; but it was Germans who built the Wall, who guard it and who shoot at other Germans in the process. The Russians have never appeared in force anywhere near the Wall except for those 48 hours in October 1961 at Checkpoint Charlie. The West already recognises the GDR de facto by doing considerable trade with it ...

"Where do we go next? We in the West are lax in not constructively exploiting the periods when Krushchov is in a more amenable mood, to put forward genuine proposals for a Berlin solution. One effect of the Wall has been to give both sides time to think. Some useful American-Russian talks have gone on behind the scenes, and Khrushchov has shown some signs of flexibility, for instance over the question of the right of the western forces to remain in Berlin. But we have not tried hard enough, and consequently West Berlin's position has not improved in the last year when it might have done."

New Frontier Measures Round W. Berlin Border

New protective measures on the frontier of the German Democratic Republic round the perimeter of West Berlin went into effect on June 25th.

Main effect of the new measures was to create a closed frontier area some 100 yards deep on the GDR side of the border. Persons living and working within this area must have special passes, and all foreigners were banned from the area.

Explaining the decrees which introduced the new measures, "Neues Deutschland", leading East Berlin newspaper, stated:

"These measures are aimed at guaranteeing peace and order both in the capital of the GDR and in West Berlin.

"Since the anti-fascist protective wall was built on August 13th, there have been a whole series of provocations and terrorist attacks on our frontier; in the most recent period this subversive activity has increased. If it was only the terrorists who got bloody heads when they ran headlong against our wall, this would just be a healthy lesson for them, but their attacks have endangered peace, and threatened the lives and the security of people living in the frontier area on both sides of the protective wall.

"All these attacks, which have been an expression of the anti-peace policy of the Bonn regime, have made the present measures necessary."

Strauss Again

Franz-Josef Strauss, Chairman of Bavaria's Christian Social Union, and former West German Defence Minister, has a pronounced talent for saying the wrong thing. In the last issue of GERMAN REPORT we quoted Strauss' classic pronouncement: "When you look at Germany's nazi past, you will realise that pretty nearly everyone has something to hide."

Speaking in Madrid on June 9th, Herr Strauss did it again. He stated: "We Europeans must not place blind confidence in the reliability and trustworthiness of the Americans, who do not wish to allow themselves to be dragged into a nuclear war." (Quoted from "Die Welt", West Germany, June 10th).

Strauss's remarkably frank statement shows:

1. Certain circles in West Germany are seriously considering the possibility of "dragging America into a nuclear war".

2. There is growing opposition in the United States to a policy which would make it possible for West Germany to do just that.

3. For this reason the West German militarists want to get their own fingers on the nuclear button.

Life Sentence for Spy

The Supréme Court of the GDR sentenced a long-service West German spy to life imprisonment on June 22nd. Evidence was given that the spy, Herbert Richter, a senior official of the GDR railway system, had been working regularly for West German military intelligence since 1948.

In the same trial, three young West Germans were sent to prison for terms of between five and ten years. They were found guilty of committing espionage and other offences against the laws of the GDR on the roads connecting West Berlin with West Germany.

Pronouncing sentence, the court pointed out that at a time when the GDR authorities were trying to reach a sensible agreement on the transit routes between West Germany and West Berlin, various American and West German intelligence agencies were trying to misuse these transit routes to smuggle agents and arms. "These manouevres constitute an acute danger to communications with West Berlin, and this trial should be regarded as a serious warning to all those who try to take advantage of the generosity of the GDR," the court stated.

West Germany's "Landsmannschaften"

By a West German Correspondent

Mob action at a rally of 100,000 "Silesian Germans" in Cologne, West Germany, made headlines on June 9th when crowds tried to lynch a West German television reporter who had made a factual TV film about present-day life in Poland. Urged on by a major speaker at the rally, they shouted "Polish swine" and "Communist bandit" at reporter Jürgen Neven-DuMont, and tried to throw him to the ground. Only prompt police aid saved the reporter from being beaten or trampled to death. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt, who had both addressed the rally earlier, looked on calmly while the mob tried to lynch the reporter.

The frenzied shouting, the anti-Polish placards and the lynch atmosphere focussed attention on the organisations which sponsor these rallies each year, the so-called Landsmannschaften. Where did these groups originate and what are their demands?

In July 1945 the major powers agreed at Potsdam to re-draw Poland's western frontier, giving her a border more easily defensible against any future aggression from Germany and compensating her in part for the loss of millions of people at the hands of the nazis and the destruction of nearly all Polish cities and industrial centres. The Germans living east of the new frontier along the Oder and Neisse rivers — mostly Silesians, Pomeranians and East Prussians — were re-settled in Germany under the provisions of the Potsdam Agreement.

Large numbers of other re-settlers also came from the "Sudetenland" area of Czechoslovakia, where a sizeable German-speaking minority had acted as a nazi Fifth Column before the war and given Hitler an excuse to seize the area in 1938. Groups of Germans were also moved out of Hungary, Rumania and some other countries.

The Soviet Zone of Germany, later the German Democratic Republic, did everything to integrate these waves of Germans into more normal life and to direct their thoughts forwards instead of backwards. The GDR has always pledged full support for the existing frontiers.

In West Germany, however, these groups, with the help of official government encouragement and large subsidies, formed the "Landsmannschaften", which might be translated freely as "Patriotic Provincial Organisations", with the main aim of calling for "return to the homeland". Since their formation these bodies have been the most vocal supporters of "revanche", a campaign of revenge for the revision of German frontiers.

Often led by vicious old nazis with criminal pasts, and always violently anti-communist, the Landsmannschaften are the strongest pressure groups against progressive trends of any kind in West Germany, whether in domestic or foreign policy.

The West German Government today claims officially a large part of Poland (and a small area of the Soviet Union) which were within the German frontier in 1937. Every map in West Germany, from the school atlas to the television weather chart, must conform to this claim and show Germany extending hundreds of miles farther eastwards than it really does. Bonn authorities have even tried to pressure foreign publishers of maps and atlases to show these outdated frontiers.

The West German Government has maintained an equivocal attitude on the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia seized by Hitler in 1938. However, the Sudeten German organisation is one of the most powerful of the Landsmannschaften, and its spokesman, Adenauer's Minister of Transport Hans-Christoph Seebohm, never loses a chance to proclaim his group's "homeland rights". He has never yet been reprimanded for doing so by his boss.

Supported by the government as they are, these groups still have hundreds of thousands of members on their rolls, even though most of them have settled down by now in their new homes. Even the children of these re-settlers, born in West Germany, are listed as "refugees" so as to keep the old nationalist spirit alive. However, recent public opinion polls have shown that most re-settlers would not return to their former homes even if they were given the opportunity.

Since the Landsmannschaften claim to represent a large and compact bloc of votes, they are wooed by all parties. Even the Social Democratic Party decided after many years of hedging to work together with all the Landsmannschaften, not excepting the very rabid Sudeten group. That is why all major parties back the claims to the old frontiers and are wary about resuming normal relations with Poland or Czechoslovakia.

In recent years, however, the Landsmannschaften with their huge annual rallies and wildly-shouted claims have begun to be embarrassing. Adenauer and his men began to notice the chilly way foreign newspapers responded to the rallies. Someone evidently told them that loud claims by Germans to Lebensraum and changed frontiers bring back many bitter recollections to millions of people in the West as well as the East. Even allies like Charles De Gaulle have spoken up in favour of the Oder-Neisse frontier, and British and American leaders have

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made it plain to the West German Government that they regard the frontier as fixed and permanent.

Adenauer and other top politicians still address the rallies and give the Landsmannschaften their blessings. But today they always stress that Polish or Czech territory must be regained "peacefully". They speak of a "United Europe" which would include these areas, after the "Bolsheviks" have been got rid of. No-one has explained how this can be achieved. And the maps with pre-war boundaries remain official.

In recent months there have been signs of a new, more realistic trend in some West German circles. Some industrial groups need trade with eastern Europe, and some people have come to realise that millions of Poles cannot be removed from their present homes without a terrible war, probably a world war, and they do not wish to go this far.

One of these men was the TV reporter Jürgen Neven-DuMont. He made a film on the city of Wroclaw (formerly Breslau), showing that the Poles have rebuilt the wrecked city and are living happy and normal lives there. No leftist, Neven-DuMont was simply interested in showing facts.

Many West Germans were impressed by the documentary; that is exactly what made the Landsmannschaften mad, for this robbed them of their main propaganda weapon: the claim that the Poles were such savages that the area east of the Oder-Neisse frontier was an arid desert. They began a huge hate offensive against Neven-DuMont. When he showed up at the rally of the Silesian Landsmannschaft in Cologne (he was officially invited to attend), this hatred nearly resulted in bloodshed. In any case, it showed that despite new thinking by some political leaders in Bonn, the Landsmannschaften remain centres of hatred and violence.

There is already a sharp conflict between these two groups; the powerful hate organisations, well represented in the government, and the less rabid elements (in all main parties) who have just arrived at an exchange of trade missions between Poland and West Germany and are working towards a rather more realistic policy which at least tacitly recognises the Oder-Neisse frontier. Formal confirmation by Britain, America and other countries that the Oder-Neisse frontier laid down in the Potsdam Agreement is the final and unalterable boundary would help the realists to win the day.

Ministerial Nominee Stumbles over Lipstick

The West German Province of Lower Saxony never seems to have any luck with the men it names as Education Minister. In June 1955, Franz Leonard Schlüter held the post until details of his lurid nazi past and post-war neo-nazism became public and he had to be sacked.

Last month, Professor Gottfried Jungmichel of the Free Democratic Party was nominated for the post. Even before his appointment could be confirmed, local newspapers published extracts from some of Professor Jungmichel's writings from the nazi period, and the Lower Saxony Government decided to withdraw the nomination.

Yellowing nazi files showed that Jungmichel had been a contributor to a series of pamphlets published in 1941 by the "Racial-Political Office of the South Hannover Gauleitung" of the Nazi Party. One of his articles stated:

"When I go through the streets, at this time when we are fighting for our very existence, and see women with painted lips, with tinted eyebrows, and with red fingernails, then I feel sure that our so-rightly beloved SS and Gestapo should find ways and means to send such females off to work somewhere where they will find no opportunity to drag through the dirt the picture of Germanic womanhood."

Bonn Anti-Press Drive Scares W. German Scribes

A leading GDR journalist was freed from a West German prison on June 21st after three weeks behind bars, following unprecedented pressure from West German journalists and newspapers.

The GDR journalist, Georg Grasnick, news editor of the Deutschlandsender Radio, most powerful GDR station, was picked up by West German police on May 30th while he was on a completely open and legal journalistic visit to West Germany. He was held on charges of "undermining the West German state". The charges were based on the programmes transmitted by Deutschlandsender Radio; that is to say he was arrested in West Germany for things he was alleged to have done within the German Democratic Republic.

At a court hearing on June 21st, Grasnick was freed, after the court had ruled that "subjectively there is no evidence that Grasnick committed an offence against the constitutional order of the German Federal Republic".

Grasnick's arrest led to a big protest wave in both German states. The West German Journalists Association, which has never before protested the frequent arrests of progressive journalists in West Germany, expressed its "extreme disquiet" at the arrest.

Commenting on the case, the West German liberal newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau" stated on June 13th: "A GDR journalist has been arrested because of his journalistic activity outside the West German borders. This makes the whole affair very questionable. In all civilised states it is unusual for a journalist to be drawn to account for the work he has done outside the frontiers of the country concerned. If this becomes a habit, then Khrushchov's son-in-law Adzhubei would have to be arrested when he visits the Federal Republic. Where shall we land if the authorities in the GDR follow the example set by the Federal Republic, and arrest West German journalists travelling to Berlin, or visiting the Leipzig Fair, on the grounds that their articles have been offences under the laws valid in the GDR?"

Nazi-Terror General Sacked

Heinz Reinefarth, former SS General who played a leading part in the brutal suppression of the Warsaw Rising in 1944, has been voted out of office after spending the past twelve years as mayor of the West German town of Westerland. During this period he was also for several years an MP in the provincial parliament.

Despite the fact that massive documentary evidence exists showing Reinefarth's complicity in war crimes, the West German authorities have not taken legal action against him.

A Cartoonist & His Figures

(Leo Haas, Czech cartoonist now living in Berlin, is one of the most popular political cartoonists in the GDR. With this cartoon and article from "Wochenpost", East Berlin weekly, he defends his style of cartooning.)

Frau Herrmann, from Naunhof, writes: "I often do not approve of your cartoons, because they repeatedly depict western politicians distortedly. I am opposed to caricatures of this sort, in east or west, because they do not help to bring about an understanding between the two German states." I sometimes hear similar comments from other people.

I have been drawing cartoons like this for some years, and I would like to reply to you, Frau Hermann, by telling something of my life.

In 1938 Hitler conquered my homeland, Czechoslovakia. Immediately after the Wehrmacht marched in I was arrested for illegal anti-fascist activity, and dragged from concentration camp to concentration camp.

I got to know the Nordic supermen in their polished jackboots, these men who pretended to be such gentlemen, and were in fact such beasts. I had to watch while they tortured and murdered women and children.

In the meantime the world has learned about the nazi crimes. I drew what I saw, and tried to smuggle my drawings out of the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Czech gendarmes helped me; but they were soon discovered, and were hung on the spot by the Gestapo.

I was accused of 'hate propaganda'. Eichmann superintended the cross-examination. I was thrown into solitary confinement. Later I was sent to Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen.

At this time Eichmann was tending his roses in the garden of a Prague villa. Should I have drawn Eichmann in a political cartoon as a peaceful gardener, or as what he really was, a bloody-handed hangman?

A cartoon is not an illustration, but a sharp satirical means of criticising conditions, events and persons. Caricature is a weapon in the political struggle. The typical element in distortion and exaggeration lays clear the inner connections — and in depicting the sadistic crimes of fascism I cannot possibly exaggerate.

I cannot draw Adenauer as a peaceful gardener as long as he is the radiator mascot on a state carriage, a vehicle which dominates the roads in West Germany, where Eichmann's accomplices — Globke, Vialon, and so many more — have all the liberties and all the privileges.

You maintain, Frau Herrmann, that such cartoons are an obstacle to understanding between the two German states. I must admit that I have no wish to reach an understanding with Globke and the militarists and revanchists. I expect that you feel the same. I believe that Globke must be put on trial; and the case against Globke will open soon. I hope that I may have helped to bring this about, by showing his real face in my cartoons.

Globke still has supporters; they include Adenauer, so I aim at Adenauer too. I do not wish to wipe him out physically; on the contrary I hope that he remains healthy so that he will be able to witness the collapse of his policies.

But do you think, Frau Herrmann, that the Globkes will disappear voluntarily? This would be a dangerous mistake to make. I have learned from experience that such people will do all they can to drag people into a new catastrophe. They must not be allowed to succeed for a third time.

That is why I have returned to Germany. I have learned to make the distinction between the oppressors and the oppressed. Here, in the GDR, are my friends, who suffered with me. My place is at their side, in order to help end the political career of those who tend roses, but trample on life. I hope that you now understand me.

Leo Haas

(from "Wochenpost", East Berlin June 8th)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A question I often get asked by foreign visitors, and which we have tried to answer in GERMAN REPORT every now and then, is what people in the GDR do in their spare time.

The over-all answer is, of course, that they do very much the same sort of things as people do in other countries, with the usual variations for local habits, climatic differences, and so on. Men, women and young people in the GDR collect stamps, go dancing, play and watch sports, look at TV, go to the theatre or cinema, or just go down to the corner pub to have a drink. In East Berlin and the strings of lakes surrounding the city, masses of people go boating; there are alleged to be 40,000 boats of all sizes on the lakes and rivers of East Berlin, and on a fine summer Sunday they all of them seem to be out.

But I want to say a little bit about another spare time activity today. This is the voluntary labour, generally pick and shovel labour, put in by many thousands of people in the evening or on afternoons off.

Clogged

The scheme originated in the immediate post-war years, when large parts of Berlin and other cities were still clogged with the ruins of war. In those days there was little prospect of getting the rubble cleared unless impressive numbers of people could be got out to heave the bricks. Large scale rubble clearing operations, accomplished almost entirely by voluntary after-work labour, cleared the way for some of the biggest of East Berlin's post-war housing projects. Nearly everybody saw that something extraordinary had to be done to mop up the mess, and most people joined in for at least a few hours.

Today this pressing need has passed, but quite a lot of this voluntary work goes on quietly, without any bands and banners, mainly in small neighbourhood projects like laying out gardens round new blocks of apartments, digging children's paddling pools in some of the new parks which have sprung up where bombed-out slum areas have disappeared, and so on.

I happen to live in a little cluster of small oldish apartment houses surrounded by trees in the central section of East Berlin. Two or three of the blocks were burned out in air raids, other blocks were badly damaged. Since the cluster of houses lies in a back-water, we were low on the priority list for ruin clearance, and the very magnitude of the job stopped us from doing much ourselves.

However, in the past couple of years the big ruins have been cleared away by a wrecking firm, and we were left with quite a big area of cleared ground, and some neglected and overgrown gardens. Some of us made a desultory attempt to scratch a bit of order into the wilderness, but we did not seem to be getting anywhere.

But then two or three of the more energetic tenants got tired of seeing the mess, and drew up some proper plans. A middle-aged shopkeeper, who runs a little private soap-and-cosmetics store, somehow managed to borrow the use of a five-ton crane which carted away some enormous granite blocks, left behind by the wrecking firm, which had littered up one corner; the wife of a well-known artist badgered our landlords (the municipal housing administration) until they provided some fencing which was needed to hedge off one large corner of our open space, and gradually more and more of the able-bodied tenants, seeing that something was really being done at last, started coming out to give a hand.

I found myself bashing away with a sickle at weeds and matted grass which hadn't been touched for twenty years, and through the past few months we have made quite an impression. Finally, nearly everybody joined in, for an hour or two at least, and last Sunday we were able to celebrate the formal opening (with speeches of course, you can't have a ceremony without speeches), of a children's playground, with a nice big sand-pit, and plenty of room for ball games.

Our policeman (he just happens to live there, like anyone else) blew up balloons and started the scooter races; our telephone linesman rigged up loudspeakers, which at one point rather mysteriously played "Ave Maria"; and our lorry driver, who can and does fix anything mechanical, managed to fix everything which went wrong at the last minute. Our dear old ladies, who had not been able to help much with the digging and gardening, baked cakes and made lemonade, and a good time was had by all.

And for the first time in the eleven years which I have lived in this corner of Berlin, I know nearly all my neighbours and when we meet each other coming or going we stop for a minute and discuss what we shall do next.

Gold Cup

The GERMAN REPORT Gold Cup for Anti-Adenauer Satire is herewith awarded to Beachcomber, resident humourist of the London "Daily Express", for this fake readers' letter, published in his column on June 13th:

Dear Sir,

Of course the West Germans should be given independent nuclear weapons. Without them they would be unfairly handicapped if they started another war. Further, the lack of such weapons humiliates them, and makes them think that there is some old grudge against them.

Realist.

Cleaved

Readers in Britain will note, possibly with pleasure, that this number of GERMAN REPORT is perhaps the only English-language periodical they see which in its current issue can offer no inside revelations on the cabinet-shaking affair of Miss K.

However I feel that I must get in at least a dimly related note. The whole lurid affair has brought back into the headlines that noted country house Cliveden, which before the Second World War became so notorious as the meeting place of the "Cliveden Set", the bunch of more-or-less pro-Hitler conciliators in the British Establishment. Nearly everybody pronounces Cliveden as though it rhymed with "jive-den"; my contact man amongst the British aristocracy assures me that it should really be pronounced "Cleave-Dun".

I know that this is a thoroughly useless bit of information; but it does fill up a corner of this page.

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